

# 2004 ANNUAL



**100 GAMES Centurion**  
**Marty O'Hare**



**50 UP!**  
**Ivo Maderia**



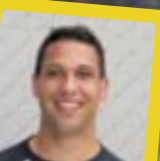
**50 UP!**  
**Brett Lavalle**



**50 UP!**  
**Miles Tidd**



**50 UP!**  
**Nick Veljovic**



**50 UP!**  
**Dame Everetts**

*Craig leads the lads  
from the Fort into  
the V.P.L*

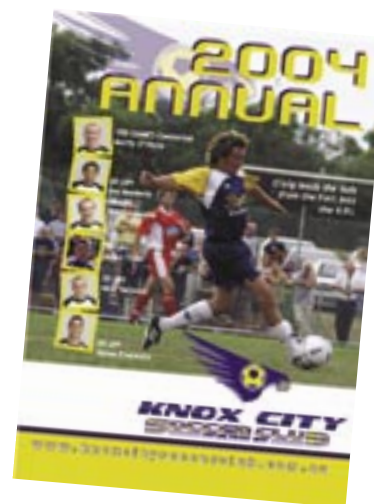


**KNOX CITY**  
**SOCCER CLUB**  
ESTABLISHED 1952

[www.knoxcitysoccerclub.com.au](http://www.knoxcitysoccerclub.com.au)

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## PRODUCTION

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designed and constructed by  
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Special thanks to **Bruce Darnell** for  
writing the match reports through  
out the season.

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**[www.soccervenues.com](http://www.soccervenues.com),**  
and also runs the Frankston Pines  
Soccer Club website.  
Thanks Fellas!





## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. A big welcome back to everyone – and a special welcome to all our new players – we hope your stay at Knox City is a long, successful and happy one.

I would also like to welcome back all the volunteers and supporters. We hope you get behind the club exactly like you did last season, and who knows what we can achieve this year!!

Sadly one of our hard working life members (J. Stack) passed away recently. John had been involved with the club for nearly 30 years and he will be sadly missed.

Well it doesn't seem so long ago that we gained Promotion to the Premier League and next week the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2004 the fun starts all over again with a home fixture against our old friends Frankston Pines. All the boys have been working very hard under our coaches this preseason and are ready to give 120%.

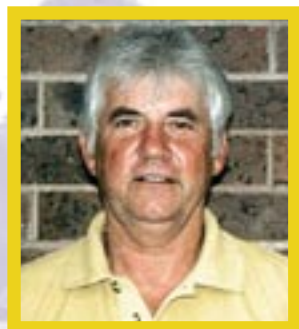
If you have been around Egan Lee - or when you do get there to support the teams - you will notice a few changes around the ground and clubrooms! Upgrades have been performed on the seating and fencing, a new First Aid room and ticket box have also been added. Inside the clubrooms you will find a new fireplace, TV, carpet and tiles. These new features are for everyone to enjoy, so please feel free to hang around after the home games, meet the players and have a drink.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who worked on these projects and especially Mr H. Gibcus who co-ordinated most of the work.

Last but not least, I wish our teams all the best for the coming year.

Thanks

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## KNOX CITY 2004 CLUB PERSONNEL

*President - C. Teeuw*  
*Vice President - B. Darnell*  
*Treasurer - C. Collison*

*Volunteers - G. Prislan*  
*L&J. Perperstraten*  
*M. Antell*  
*S. Beech*  
*C. Broxham*  
*G. O'Hare*  
*L. Orr*

*Junior President - M. Devlin*  
*Junior Vice President - M. Frizziero*  
*Junior Treasurer - B. O'Conner*  
*Junior Secretary - T. G Strein*  
*Junior Merchandise - D. Moon*

*Senior Coach - A. Humble*  
*Ass. Senior Coach - A. Greenwood*  
*Reserve Coach - R. Verniers*  
*Ass Reserve Coach - S. Evans*  
*GoalKeeper Coach - R. Lawton*

*Physio - A. Bell*  
*R. ???*



**KNOX CITY**  
**SOCCER CLUB**  
ESTABLISHED 1952



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## 2004 K.C.S.C SENIOR

BACK ROW - gary mousaco, miles tidd, yasher alinejad, andy branov, mal impiombato, david breslin, marty o'hare, anthony edgar, daniel sobrero, brett van duppen, matt orr, brett lavalley, craig kerr[c]

MIDDLE ROW - cor teeuw[president], chas collison[secretary], matt verniers, anthony greco, damien greco, damien everetts[vc], salim nasser, nick veljovic, lan callaghan, robert benedos, luke ventieri, bruce darnell[vice president], angus bell[physio], R\*\*\*\*[physio]

FRONT ROW - liam swaine, adam ventieri, ivo madiera, stuart evans[reserve coach], ron verniers[reserve coach], matt broxham, val philippe, andy humble[senior coach], roy lawton[goal keeper coach] , zelmart martinez, adam doughty, cameron jones

"FORT KNOX" Egan Lee Reserve, Wallace Rd, Knoxfield. Map 73 A3  
Club Phone No: +61 03 9763 9038, Club Fax No: +61 03 9763 9038

## LIFE MEMBERS

1978	Heinz Vollmer	1998	Michael Stoffels
1979	Bill Stoffels	1999	Lou Van Peperstraten
1979	John Halford	1999	Loy Saisi
1979	Alastair Robertson	2000	John Stack
1982	Dave Andrews	2000	Muriel Stack
1982	Bruce Fasham	2001	Cor Teeuw
1986	Joanne Van Peperstraten	2002	Bruce Darnell
1991	Nigel Fedor	2002	Chas Collison
1994	Gunther Prislán	2003	Steve Healy
1998	Bill Brimmer	2003	Mat Van der Lack
		2004	Hank Gibcus



## HUMBLES GRUMBLE

It's with a sad note that I begin the first Crumble this year. During our first few weeks of preseason we received the sad news that Life member John Stack had passed away peacefully mid December. John and wife Muriel were both made Life Members in 2000 for the massive amount of work and support they both provided the club. Ever present supporters for many many years, it a great shame that John wont be with us to see his beloved Knox play again in the Premier League. The players and coaching staff wish to convey their deepest sympathy to Muriel and family, especially David, our ex coach and long time player at Knox City Soccer Club.

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It's been a busy and hectic few months since our future was confirmed down at Northcote last September. A six-week break is all we could afford the lads and then it was back in and working hard again. Aside from the usual pre season drama's we were also in the dark as to when the season would actually kick off, due to the water restrictions, and then, to top it off, we had to deal with a plan for Melbourne Knights, and then a South Melbourne second team, to join the Premier League for 2004. Only recently have we actually had it confirmed that our season will kick off on the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb at "The Fort" against our old friends Frankston Pines.

Pre season has gone reasonably well so far, the lads have been training very well and getting through some excellent work. We are now at the stage where we are starting to fine tune the team and get ourselves ready for the first game in few weeks time.

We have lost a few players from last year's squad. Peter Veljovic will be hanging up the boots and helping around the club during the season. I explained to Big Pete that his opportunities would be limited, and also with the U21 situation for the reserves, even more so than last year. Being the bloke he is Pete has decided if he can't play for the lads he would like to be a part of the squad by helping out on match days etc and still be involved in the changing rooms. A great gesture, and one that I'm very pleased about. Thanks for your efforts over the past couple of years Pete.

Steve Bouios has decided to leave, due also to lack of opportunities with the first team, as to has Nick Agetzis. Both lads were brought in last year, but had limited opportunities last season. I wish both all the very best for the coming season, wherever they may play.

Brian Roper has also decided to leave the club and try and get regular first team soccer else where, and looks like signing for Mooroolbark. All the best Brian and thanks for your efforts over the past seasons that I have been in charge.

We have seen plenty of new faces down at "The Fort" during preseason, as expected, and some have left already, but the ones that have signed up are, Rob Spence, David Breslin and Mal Impiombato.

Rob Spence has signed from Eastern Lions, and comes with a wealth of experience, having played in the Premier League with Essendon and also full time in Hong Kong. We looked at getting Rob down to Knox a few years back, but it didn't happen, so I was happy to get him sorted for this season and I'm confident he can contribute greatly to our strike force.

David Breslin comes to us from Kingston. Another with vast experience in the Premier League with Bentleigh Greens and a player that again will contribute greatly to our attack.

Mal Impiombato has signed from Fitzroy and once again has had Premier League experience with Fawkner. Another striker, but one that we are looking to play as an attacking midfielder for us.

All three have been impressive in the pre season games so far, and I'm looking forward to working with each of them through out the year. Welcome to Knox lads, and all the very best for the season.

On the coaching front its as you were as far as the first team is concerned, with Andy Greenwood remaining as assistant coach and Roy Lawton as goalkeeping coach. But, as stated last season, Charlie Vlad decided to hang the whistle and stop watch up. So this year the new coaches for the U21 squad





are Ron Verniers and Stuart Evans. Both Ronnie and Stuart bring a wealth of experience to the club, and I wish them every success with the squad this year. A difficult task in itself early on with numbers for try outs running into the forties, and with limitations of having an U21 squad.

A special mention must go to Roy Lawton in being appointed goalkeeper coach for the recent Victorian game versus the Fijian Olympic side. Roy assisted senior Victorian coach Stan Webster by looking after the goalkeepers. Well-done Roysta!

On the playing front the pre season has been moving along nicely. We played early games against Bentleigh Greens and Nunawading and had good run outs with both. Since the Christmas break we have played Altona Magic and Green Gully. Two teams that should be in the top four this season, and therefore a good guide to see where we are at the moment and how much ground we have to make up. The results went well for us, 4-4 with Magic and a 1-0 win against Gully, but the important thing for me was the game itself. It did show up areas of weakness, but areas that I'm confident we can improve on very quickly to ensure that come the first game we are on the pace. I think the big question will be whether we can, as a team, adapt to the pace of the Premier League. The jump is a big one from State League One, and we must ensure that we do all we can to pick up the pace as early as possible.

Without a doubt survival this year is the goal, and it is a goal that we are capable of, what happens after that we will tackle when the time comes. All I know is that the Lads will be well and truly motivated to give the league a great go, and any team that does play Knox will know they have played a game, win lose or draw. We have a team spirit that would be the envy of many teams in the league. Money can buy lots of things, but it can't buy what we have down at Knox.

To all our supporters from last year, please get down early and join in the excitement of what promises to be a cracking season. The support last year was superb, and I'm hoping that we can better that this year. As always the merchandise shop will be open and a new range of gear will be available very soon, along with stocks from last year. So come along and support the lads in official club wear. A big day is expected for the Frankston Pines game on the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, with many traveling support for The Pines, so get behind the Lads if you can and make it a memorable first day back in the Premier League.

Wishing everyone involved a great and fruitful season, and one that, whatever happens, at the end of the day, we gain some valuable experience from.

All the best,

Cheers Andy.





# Round 1

**KNOX CITY 0  
FRANKSTON PINES 0**

Knox City marked its return to the Victorian Premier League with a draw in an exciting, albeit goalless game against last year's finalists at Egan Lee Reserve.

Fielding three new signings but missing both leading goalscorers from last season, Knox shaded the first half in which both defences had the upper hand and chances were hard-won. It was a very physical game and as early as the fifteenth minute players were having to be separated after a clash near the touchline.

The best chance for Knox came when a Craig Kerr corner flashed across the face of the goal without a Knox player able to get the vital touch. Marty O' Hare was dominating on Knox's left flank and he always looked the most likely to create scoring opportunities. At the other end, Nicholes scuffed his shot when given a clear opportunity.

Pines turned up the intensity at the start of the second half and they took the upper hand for the next twenty minutes as they broke quickly and started to win the second balls. Despite this they did not find too many gaps in the Knox defence.

The game took a turn in Knox's favour when

Craig Elvin was dismissed for two yellow cards within five minutes, both for rash challenges, firstly on Rob Spence and then on David Breslin. Knox now started to push more players forward with O' Hare still looking dangerous on the wing and half chances started to appear.

With five minutes left another melee on the wing saw Scott Webster being the second Pines player dismissed, this time for a straight red card. Frankston now had its back well and truly to the wall as they fought to hold out for the last five minutes with only nine men.

Knox had a scare close to the end when Damian Everetts left a through-ball thinking it was going to keeper Val Philippe, only for the ball to end up with a Frankston striker. Everetts recovered brilliantly, however, to get in a last ditch tackle and save the day.

Deep into injury time, the clear cut chance that Knox was seeking came when an O' Hare cross was only partially cleared but substitute Matt Orr got under the ball and drove his shot over the bar from 10 metres out.

A point gained, but possibly two points lost given the numerical superiority that Knox enjoyed late in the game.



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# Round 2

## ST ALBANS SAINTS 3 vs KNOX CITY 0

Knox City found out what life in the top league is like - if you make chances and don't take them, and then make mistakes at the back, the other side will invariably punish you. And that's what happened at Churchill Reserve on Sunday.

Knox soaked up the St. Albans pressure magnificently for the first 33 minutes and created some good chances of its own. Marty O' Hare had a free kick palmed over the bar and then David Breslin brought a finger tip save from the keeper after an excellent run and shot.

St Albans were also creating enough chances and Val Philippe was called on to make a couple of fine saves, including one where he cut out a low cross at full stretch with the St Albans striker waiting to gobble up the chance right in front of the goal.

Following a left wing corner the ball was fed back across the St Albans goal with the home defence not picking up their men but David Breslin steered his header

wide of the post. As good teams do, St Albans punished Knox for the miss and they took the lead after 33 minutes when their right-winger, Matkovic was played on side and he cut inside and made no mistake with a low shot.

The home side probably just deserved the half time lead, but, apart from one slip, Knox had performed admirably with defenders keeping their shape and making timely last-line tackles.

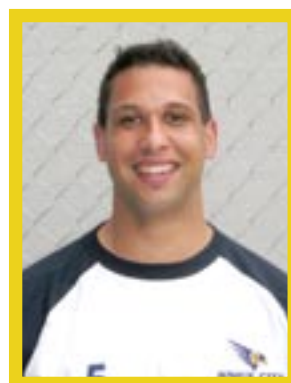
St Albans were the dominant side in the second half as they continually pressed forward in search of a second goal. Knox found it difficult to get any possession in the middle of the park. Coach Andy Humble rang the changes and brought on Nick Veljovic for Mal Impiombato in midfield. Although, the home side created the better chances, Knox was still in with a chance and it was only late in the game that St Albans made certain of the three points. A bad throw-in in the 76th minute left the Knox midfield stranded and the home team raced away for Deak to score. Soon after this, Nick Veljovic harried the St. Albans keeper into a mistake and he lost the ball on the edge of the area, but he recovered with a despairing dive to recover the ball.

St Albans' victory became more emphatic with a third goal in stoppage time, when a poor clearance allowed Debecv to turn and shoot into the far corner.



# 50 CLUB

## Damian Everetts



This weekend against St. Albans Damian Everetts plays his 50th game for Knox City. Damian is one of only a few who can say they started their career as a junior playing for Knox City.

'Damo' at a young age represented the Eastern Region on numerous occasions and was identified then by Bulleen S.C as a "hot prospect". After joining Bulleen and rising through the youth set-up, it wasn't long before he was playing in the senior team.

After a successful stint in the Bulleen set up, Damo then moved onto Preston. At one of the biggest clubs in Victoria, Damian fitted quite comfortably and was fast building a huge

reputation as a technically intelligent player.

Damian came back to where it all started for him in the year 2000 and continues to perform. He has instilled the quality of his own game upon the rest of the squad, and his contribution last year was rewarded with the promotion back to the Premier League.

On behalf of the committee, players and supporters CONGRATULATIONS on your 50th game! and the best of luck for the oncoming season.



## KNOX CITY 1 VS ALTONA MAGIC 3

Knox City broke through for its first goal in Premier League but still failed to get anything from its home game against Altona Magic. Once again, Knox created plenty of chances and the team will take heart from this, but the conversion rate needs to improve before they take something from games against the better sides in the League.

Brett Lavale was inches wide with a shot in the first couple of minutes and then Nick Veljovic was on target with a header that Jevdevic saved comfortably. After this bright start, the visitors went ahead in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute when Waite was allowed to fire across the face of goal and Cergovski was on hand at the far post to convert. A few minutes later, Altona had the ball in the back of the net but Becinovski was ruled offside.

Lavale went close again with a strong header and Veljovic was also close for the home side as they pressed for the equaliser. Val Philippe in the Knox goal was in fine form and dealt with crosses and shots with safe hands, in particular a

fierce free kick from Becinovski.

The second half started evenly and both sides looked dangerous in turn. Substitute, David Breslin volleyed brilliantly only to see Jevdevic parry the ball. Breslin's second effort was scrambled round the post for a corner.

The game turned in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute when Lavale was given a second yellow card, harshly in the view of many and Altona used its numerical superiority to turn the screws. Following concerted pressure, Waite added a second goal when he made no mistake from 15 metres.

Far from wilting, Knox lifted and had by far its best spell of the match as it took the game to Altona, despite being a man short. Rob Spence was by now winning the aerial battle and his flicks and touches were causing concern for the Altona defence. In the 80<sup>th</sup> minute, one such flick on from a Marty O' Hare free kick was met by a firm header from Veljovic, who made no mistake. This goal lifted Knox further and two minutes later Spence almost equalised when his first time shot narrowly missed.

With five minutes to go, Altona used the spare man to advantage as they stretched Knox from one side of the field to the other and then laid the ball inside where the advancing Camilleri was free to strike an unstoppable shot past Philippe.







# Round 4

## WHITTLESEA 4 VS KNOX CITY 3

After looking down and out in the first half, Knox City staged a spirited comeback in the second and at one stage that had the home team rocking. But in the end it came to nothing as defensive frailties again outweighed their attacking capabilities.

After less than half an hour, Whittlesea had scored twice through Petrevski and Trajanovski, had another disallowed for offside and generally had outplayed Knox City, which contributed to its own downfall by again gifting balls to the opposition in dangerous positions. At this stage, it looked like a long and worrying night for Knox. Despite Whittlesea's dominance, Knox started to create some chances of their own and Mal Imiombato, Rob Spence and Anthony Edgar all went close. Nick Veljovic's long throws caused panic in the home defence all evening.

A half-time roasting from Coach, Andy Humble worked wonders as Knox came out for the second half fired up and within three minutes had scored twice to draw level. First, Rob Spence again got on the end of a long throw from Nick Veljovic and his looping header deceived John in the Whittlesea goal. Within a minute a long cross from the right found David Breslin in space 15 metres from goal and his volley was struck sweetly into the far corner of the net, surely a contender for goal of the season already.

At this stage, an upset was looking likely as Whittlesea had lost all its early rhythm but another ball lost in midfield enabled Ouliaris to stride forward and comprehensively beat Val Philippe from the edge of the area with a rasping shot.

Knox was forced to chase the game again and the chances came and went. Anthony Edgar headed against the crossbar from a corner and with Rob Spence and David Breslin looking dangerous all the time, an equaliser was not out of the question. As often happens in this situation, Knox got caught on the break as a long ball found Koutsoupis beating the offside by a whisker and he was able to outpace the defence and score from close range.

Not finished yet, David Breslin got his second with a header close to the end and there was still time for a couple of chances to fall Damian Everett's way as Knox threw men forward in search of an unlikely fourth goal. Ultimately, it was not to be and Knox will continue to rue the balls that were given away so cheaply that contributed to their downfall. Missing key midfielders, Craig Kerr, Brett Lavale and Marty O'Hare did not help. Hopefully, all will be available for the next game at home to Fawkner.



## HUMBLES GRUMBLE

After four games in the Premier League I'm hoping the lads have finally realized what it takes to compete at this standard. With four games gone and only one point to our name, things could be worse, but only slightly!! Looking beyond the results it's not a place we haven't been before. In that I mean our downfall has been our own fault. With unprofessional options to certain situations and some passing that even our sub-junior teams would be disappointed with, its no surprise that we are giving goals away like never before. Until we tighten up our defensive game throughout the team we will continue to struggle. Lets hope the message gets across sooner rather than later.

Having said that I know the Lads are enjoying the time in the Premier League and it's a buzz to be involved with Victoria's elite. With every game a tough one its great to see everyone involved looking forward to the next outing. Winning is a habit, and the same rings true for losing, so as long as we don't accept what's happening without fighting it all the way I have no doubt that the points will start to roll in shortly.

When I look back on the first four games, I can honestly say that we have at least been "in" all our games for long periods. Against the Pines, with the great first half and unfortunate send offs for them, we should have taken all three points, we certainly had the opportunities to do so, albeit not many!! Against St Albans we we're given a soccer lesson, in the way they attacked and defended against us, and even though we conceded a lot of ground and they created many opportunities it wasn't all one-way.

We did create some good openings ourselves and with better finishing could have scored, and as I keep saying to the Lads, its goals that make all the difference. The fact that it was still one nil, until two late goals, is an indication that we were still in with a shot. Nothing away

from St Albans though, they were different class. In the next game against Altona Magic, we saw the return of our friend and ex assistant coach Franz Weimper. It was great to see Franz back down at Knox, even though he was with the opposition! We again conceded an early goal on about 15 minutes, and from there more or less held our own, and once again created chances. The unfortunate thing for us in this game was a poor decision by the referee to give Brett Lavale a second yellow for a tackle that, although not pretty, certainly didn't warrant a yellow card, and I honestly think if the referee had kept tabs on his bookings Brett would have stayed on, it was soft. The effect was almost immediate as Altona soon scored the second goal they believed would kill us off. However a great fight back from the Lads showed exactly what most teams are like when put under pressure and we could have, and really should have, got back the two goals instead of just the one. In the end, with ten men and pushing forward to get the equalizer, we conceded another late goal in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute to end our hopes. But again even with 10 men we were in the game up until that time.

Against Whittlesea we had a nightmare first 30 minutes and found ourselves two goals down and a mountain to climb. A great fight back in the second half and we pulled it back to 2-2, before once again losing possession and giving another goal away. Chasing the game, again, we conceded a fourth but kept ourselves in it by scoring in the 89<sup>th</sup> minute. So all in all a disappointing start, but one that does have many positives for us to work with and a few negatives that we can fix with some smarter soccer and better ball control. It certainly is not doom and gloom, as many would imagine, the Lads are looking forward to the next game with relish and can't wait to take on some National League players with it.

We will have players due back for the next game and should be almost back to a full strength squad, so the signs are still good and positions are certainly up for grabs. A great position for me to be in and one that I will ensure gives us the best squad, with the best in form players playing.

Congratulations to Rob Spence and David Breslin for scoring their first goals in a Knox shirt against Whittlesea. Congrats also to Bruce Graham and

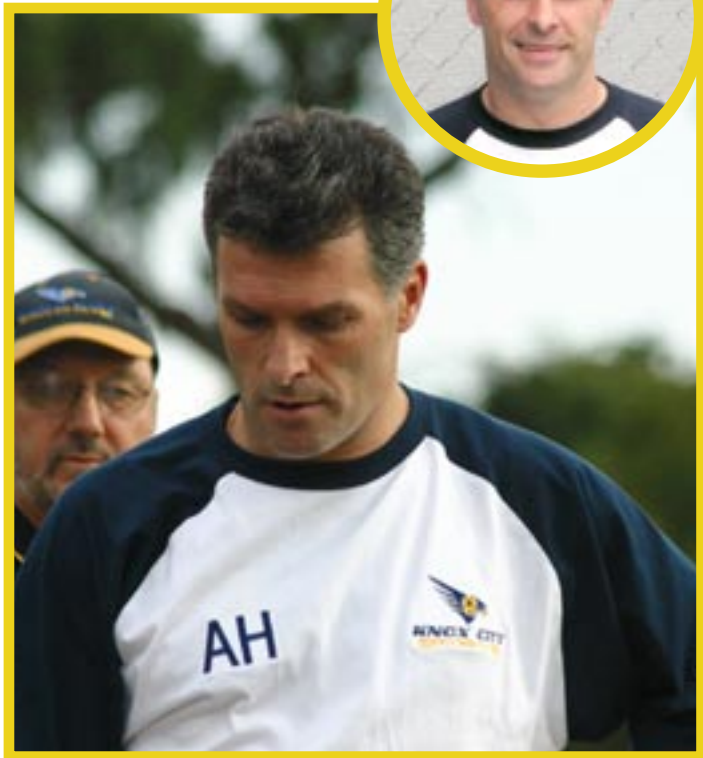


Matty Orr for getting their first starts with the club in the Premier League. And congratulations to Liam Swaine on making his first team debut against Whittlesea, a great achievement for a young lad that has a bright future. I suppose I should also welcome back Cameron Jones to the club. Cam has been on a skiing holiday around the USA and Canada (I think) and a few weeks in Europe also, great to have you back Cam and I'm sure the supporters are looking forward to seeing you in action soon. Also good to see Iain Callaghan back in the squad after a long lay off with injury.

Speaking of supporters, as usual the support has been excellent so far and we've seen some great crowds down at "The Fort" already. Traveling support has also been very good, and much appreciated by the Lads and coaching staff. Keep it up, as we need all the help we can get during this vital season.

All the best,

Cheers Andy.



# THE FORT

*Egan Lee Reserve.  
Nicknamed FORT KNOX!*



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# Round 5

## KNOX CITY I VS FAWKNER BLUES 3

Knox City's poor start to the Premier league season continued with a 3-1 home defeat at the hands of Fawknor on Sunday.

Once again, Knox found itself chasing the game after conceding early goals, the first of which came after only 20 seconds as Sterjovski was allowed to run 50 meters unchallenged to the edge of the Knox penalty area. Val Philippe in the Knox goal got a hand to his shot but failed to stop the ball bobbling into the net for probably the quickest goal of the season so far.

With their confidence low, Knox's first half display was woeful. They were continually beaten to the ball and even the most elementary passing looked beyond them. After 15 minutes they went further behind when Marth rose to head home powerfully from a left wing corner. For the fourth consecutive match, Knox found itself two goals down and with another mountain to climb.

Breslin corner was headed on and defender Anthony Edgar was first to react and he made no mistake with his header to cut the deficit after 35 minutes. The visitors however gave Knox no chance to build on this as Tsiorlias restores the two goal advantage with a glancing header only a minute later.

A half time roasting from the coaches at last stirred the home side into activity and for long periods of the second half they put the Fawknor defence under pressure. It was not pretty, route one type of soccer but with a little more luck they could have turned the game around. Mal Impiombato finished a good run with a 20 metre shot that whistled past the upright and then substitute Cameron Jones brought the save of the match from Tilovski to tip over his vicious drive. Anthony Edgar headed just over and it was beginning to look as though the break through would never come.

With ten minutes left, Fawknor broke quickly and Murone got behind the defence, rounded Philippe but his goalbound shot was handled on the line by Damien Everetts, who was red-carded for the offence. Philippe made a fine save from the resultant penalty kick, but with ten men the effort was by now beyond Knox and Fawknor blew another chance to increase the lead when Sterjovski wastefully shot high and wide from six metres out.



# 14

Promising signs emerged when a David





# Round 6

## OAKLEIGH CANNONS I VS KNOX CITY 0

Even though they gained no points, Knox City went a long way to getting their Premier League campaign on track with a gutsy performance against Oakleigh on Friday night under lights. Gone was the sloppiness in defence that had conceded 13 goals in the last four games. In its place was a steely resolve that kept the star-studded Oakleigh attack at bay for all but 12 minutes of the match.

Missing Vice-captain Damian Everetts through suspension, Knox brought in its new signing from Preston Lions, Andrew Branov for his first game and he gave an impressive display in a defensive midfield role. Oakleigh fielded two new signings from National League side Melbourne Knights, making five players in the side with experience at the highest level in the country.

Coach, Andy humble set his stall out to frustrate the Oakleigh attack and the plan so nearly worked. For the first time this year, he went with a 4-4-2 formation, with midfielder Brett Lavale taking Everetts' spot at the back. Whilst Oakleigh had the better of the game territorially, they were ineffectual in the last third and Knox's keeper, Val Philippe was seldom troubled.

As a consequence there were few clear chances in the first half. Nilo and Latinopoulos were the best of the Oakleigh attackers, whilst for Knox Nick Veljovic had a couple of long-range efforts. Just before the break, striker Rob

Spence was forced out of the action with damaged ribs and he was substituted by Cameron Jones, who is slowly getting back to match fitness after a three month break in the USA.

By mid-way through the second half, Oakleigh had made three substitutions, all of them in attack and this was a testament to the way the Knox defence had stuck to its task. At the other end, Jones' pace was causing the home defence a number of problems and he had a goal bound shot was deflected for a corner. Shortly after, Knox had a great chance to take the lead when a corner was flicked on and then forced goalwards but the ball was headed off the line by a defender.

Branov was replaced after 70 minutes as he started to cramp up and a few minutes later, Oakleigh made the break through when a right wing cross found its way through to substitute, Marinos who made no mistake from eight metres out.

Knox pushed men forward to try to salvage the situation and inevitably left themselves exposed at the back. Pelikan was particularly wasteful with a number of chances that came his way in the closing stages. Brett Lavale had the ball in the Oakleigh net with a couple of minutes left but it was ruled offside.







## KNOX CITY 1 VS BENTLEIGH GRNS 0

Knox City scored its first win in Premier League with a dour 1-0 victory over fellow cellar dweller, Bentleigh Greens. The vital breakthrough came after 59 minutes when striker Rob Spence netted his second goal of the season, after a great cross from Marty O' Hare and some bullocking work by Anthony Edgar to take the ball away from Walton, the Bentleigh keeper.

Playing against the wind in the first half, Knox had to defend for long periods as Bentleigh pressed forward and created most of the chances in a lack luster 45 minutes of soccer. Driver fired wide when put clear and Bentleigh's scoring woes were evident as they blazed away whilst rarely getting the ball on target. When they did, as early as the third minute, Val Philippe in the Knox goal made a brilliant one-handed save at the foot of the post. Bentleigh had not scored in their last five games and it showed.

At the other end, Knox's best chances came from Nick Veljovic and Cam Jones was brought down in the edge of the penalty as he looked to get clear of his marker.

Coach Andy Humble was satisfied with keeping the game scoreless against the wind and he made a couple of tactical changes at half time to provide more attacking options with the wind. It looked like immediate dividends when, in Knox's first attack after the break, the ball was played to the far post where Ivo Madeira contrived to hook the ball over from three metres out, with Cam Jones also unmarked and maybe in a better position.

Chances started to flow Knox's way and Jones headed wide when in a good position before the vital first goal came. Anthony Edgar had stayed up field after a set piece and he did enough to stop Walton gathering the ball and Rob Spence was able to fire into an unguarded net.

The second goal to settle the nerves would not come and there were some nervous moments at the other end as Natsioulis and Caffrey created chances, the former grazing the woodwork after rounding Phillippe, but this was Knox's day. Three points and they have closed the gap with the



## ESSENDON ROYALS 3 VS KNOX CITY 1

A controversial refereeing decision two minutes before the interval turned this game and negated the fine start that Knox had made. They never recovered and Essendon added two more goals in the second half, giving a hat-trick to Michael Curcija, a recent signing from National League club, South Melbourne.

Knox conceded territory early in the game as they faced a stiff breeze. Playing with a lone striker, they set out to contain the Essendon attack, which they did fairly comfortably for the first 43 minutes. Counter attacking, Knox was able to create chances of its own. First, Nick Veljovic headed marginally wide after a good break from Ivo Madeira on the right. The next time Madeira's pace took him clear a perfectly flighted cross found Veljovic at the far post and he made no mistake this time with his header.

Two minutes before the break came the crucial turning point, and it wasn't the first controversial refereeing decision. With the Assistant clearly raising his flag for offside, the Referee chose to ignore the signal and allowed play to continue and Curcija was able to stab the ball home from close range. The Knox players surrounded the Referee, appealing in vain.

Up to this point, apart from a series of bullet like throws from Miles and one shot from Pace, Essendon had looked one-dimensional.

It was a different story after the interval. Essendon controlled long periods of the game, although Veljovic almost got his second when he drove the ball against the post. Shortly afterwards, the Knox defence was caught square and Pace raised through and squared the ball for Curcija to add a second.

After that, Knox's best chance came from a long-range thunderbolt from Marty O' Hare which was brilliantly tipped over by Essendon's other signing from South Melbourne, Astanasiades.

With ten minutes to go. Curjica was again on hand to score his third close-range goal after a good build up down the left wing.

As the game reached its end, an ugly incident saw Craig Kerr and two Essendon players being given red-cards, Kerr's for a tackle, both Essendon players appeared to be for striking.



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# Round 9

## KNOX CITY 0 VS BULLEEN ZEBRAS 2

Two highly dubious offside decisions determined the outcome of this Premier league match, one in the first two minutes and one two minutes from the end. Bulleen scored from both to inflict further agony on Knox City's poor start to this Premier league campaign. They remain at the foot of the table, but with other results going their way, there is still light at the end of the tunnel.

Knox has conceded a number of early goals this season and this week was no exception, however there was a huge question mark over the legitimacy of Psarros' goal as the Assistant Referee ignored appeals for an obvious offside decision.

After this, Knox battled manfully and contained the highly fancied Bulleen outfit. In fact, apart from the opening goal, it was a good performance in the first half. Ivo Madeira was prominent on the left wing and the Knox defence looked fairly comfortable. All in all, chances were few and far between at both ends.

Knox pressed more in the second half but their crossing and final pass often left something to be desired. With Damian Everetts pushing into midfield more often, the home side had more of the territorial advantage, but the equalizer would not come.

With time running out, Bulleen broke and another doubtful decision not to flag for offside allowed Tsioukis to score the vital second goal and put the match beyond Knox's reach.



# 50 CLUB

## Nick Veljovic

Against Preston this weekend Nick played with 50th game. Nick's junior days were played in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne, his past clubs as he has broke into senior ranks include Nunawading, Williamstown and Stonnington.

Nick made his reputation as a promising young striker at Stonnington, partnering his elder brother Pete up front they formed a dangerous forwardline. In 2002 the lads joined Knox and have gone from strength to strength.

On behalf of the committee, players and supporters CONGRATULATIONS on your 50th game! and the best of luck for the oncoming season.



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# Round 10

## PRESTON LIONS 1 VS KNOX CITY 0

A single first half goal was enough to consign Knox City to another defeat in the Victorian Premier League at Preston on Sunday.

Knox started brightly and Nick Veljovic went close with a stinging shot that flashed just wide of the mark. Rob Spence might have also scored when he deflected an Andrew Branov shot but Schwalger in the Preston goal was well placed.

Preston played some clever approach play but once into the final third they found Val Philippe in the Knox goal in fine form and the Knox back-line gave him excellent support. Philippe tipped one stinging shot on to the post and to safety and managed to block a number of other shots as the home side started to assert itself.

With half-time and a clean sheet beckoning, a clever through ball released Cvetanovski and he made no mistake driving the ball across Philippe and into the far corner of the net.

Knox's passing let it down in the second half and, as a consequence they were continually forced on to the back foot. Philippe made a couple of superb saves but as the game progressed Preston, whilst dominating possession, became a bit one-dimensional in attack. Knox was unable to create too many opportunities apart from Cameron Jones using his pace on a couple of occasions.

Although it would not have been a true reflection of the game, Knox nearly snatched a last gasp equalizer when Damien Everetts, who had a very solid game against his old club, rose to head a right wing corner, but the ball flashed agonisingly wide.



# 20



## KNOX CITY 1 VS GREEN GULLY 4

Halfway through the Premier League season and one win, one draw and nine losses is Knox City's reward for a very demanding return to the highest echelon of soccer in Victoria.

The demise of the National League and the flood of players from that quarter into the Premier League have given it the highest quality for many years, even if it beggars belief as to how some clubs remain under their salary cap. None of this is to deny the fact that Knox City has not played with the same unquenchable team spirit that has been evident in recent years. They are probably also a quality player or two short.

Against last year's Premier League Champions, Green Gully, the first half was testament to this as every mistake by the home side seemed to be punished with a goal. As early as the third minute, Knox was chasing the game as poor defending allowed Magnacca to control the ball, swivel and score with some ease.

Fifteen minutes later, it was 2-0 as a free kick outside the area was poorly defended and Vargas added to the score with a none too spectacular shot. The agony got worse ten

minutes later as Knox gave the ball away whilst building an attack and Green Gully broke with speed and Tsaltsas finished by neatly slipping the ball past Philippe in the Knox goal.

Knox rallied briefly and new signing Miles Tidd and Marty O' Hare combined well on the left. O' Hare's cross was met at the far post by Anthony Edgar and his header back across goal was finished off by Andrew Asimakidis, having his first start for the season after a lengthy injury.

Gully soon restored the three goal cushion when Tsaltsas beat the offside trap to race half the length of the pitch to make it 4-1.

Playing for pride in the second half, Knox lifted its game and they competed all around the park. Craig Kerr hit the woodwork with a fine long range drive and had another effort well saved by McGrath. The pressure caused some disconcerting moments in defence for the visitors, but ultimately their class restored some order to their proceedings and they were able to comfortably see out the remainder of the half for a clear cut victory.



# Round 11



# 21

## HUMBLES GRUMBLE

The half way stage of the season is almost upon us, and obviously we are not in a position we would have hoped at this stage. Having said that, expectations have not been proved wrong with the league as tough as it is. We knew it would be tough and its certainly proving that. I still, and will always, maintain that we need to stick together, battle on and keep working hard regardless of results. Our day in the sun is coming.

Since my last Crumble, we have picked up our first win, albeit a scrappy one against Bently Greens. In the same period we managed to gift Fawcner three points at the Fort, lose to Oakleigh in the last 10 minutes after defending so well for 80 minutes, lose in a disappointing game, for more than five reasons, to Essendon and again at the Fort lose to Bulleen in a game that we could have realistically got something out of. One major problem we have is keeping a clean sheet. I've always impressed on the team through out the years that clean sheets win games and goals change games.

I look at Frankston Pines and can only admire what Stan Webster has built down there with a squad of hard working players that are, arguably, no better individually than what we have at Knox. Clean sheets have been their key and their results show that. To make an impression in our games we must keep clean sheets.

I keep singing the praises of all the Lads this season, and with good reason. I honestly believe any other team in this position would have fallen to pieces well before now, but the attitude of the Lads, although very much tested, is still very good and in the circumstances - excellent. A good dressing room will always help when the going gets tough

and I know the Lads will stick together and keep working at what we believe in. We are not that far off the pace now, and with some luck and a bit more quality in our ball game, I believe results will come. As I said in my last Crumble, playing in the Premier League is a buzz and it is the place to be, the Lads feel the same as I do and will certainly give it all to be there again next year.

One thing that has not been in our favor much this year is some ordinary decisions by officials. Some crucial decisions at crucial times and areas have gone against us and cost us dearly. I only hope that they will even out through out the season, but if they do we certainly need a fair amount of good fortune for the rest of the season.

I guess a more pressing issue at the moment is the problem with the park and the training grounds. With the water restrictions affecting just about every club we certainly haven't had much support from the council in regards to our grounds.

For a club that is now playing in the highest league it can play in this State, its a disgrace when you think about the support, or lack of, we have had from council. When I look at Aussie Rules grounds in the Shire it really depresses me to think that the council may still be living in the past and have the "Wog Ball" attitude towards us. If you play in the elite league the State has to offer, in any sport, you should receive the support from council that achievement deserves. Some other sporting clubs are nowhere near their top leagues yet they have beautiful, lush playing surfaces for both seniors and juniors. Pick your game up Knox Council, there are literally hundreds of votes at Knox City Soccer Club and I would doubt any would be going to the current elected Council.





One question that I get asked often is in regards to the amount of National League players that are currently joining the Premier League, and if it's a good thing or not. In my opinion I do believe it is a good thing. As a player I would certainly look forward to testing my ability against some quality opposition. I know the Lads at the club enjoy the test and look forward to the challenge. It only increases the quality of the league and quality of opposition we play and therefore can only benefit everybody in the long term. The question of whether these players are just going through the motions no longer comes into it because they have no National League team to be associated with now, so each and everyone of them is playing for their futures.

The Under 21's are struggling at the moment also. I have seen all their first half performances this year, and they seem to be suffering from the same disease that is causing the First team problems – gifting goals. We have some great talent in the U21's and all I can say to the young lads is enjoy the experience and keep giving it your all. Never give in!! The luck will change, but it won't change unless you try you hardest to make it change.

Congratulations to Damo Everetts and his lovely wife Kath on their Wedding last month. A great night was had by all that attended and it was great to see Damo and Kath enjoying their night. (Do you want a hanky Damo???) I guess having said that, mention must be made to "Team Lavale" that also tied the knot late last year. Brett Lavale and his lovely wife Kel enjoyed a great day out with most of the Lads and Lass's in tow. My best wishes to both couples for a long and happy marriage.

In closing, as always the support has been brilliant this year, and even though the results are going against us at the moment the well wishes are out their giving us all their support. Thanks heaps for that, its nice to hear a few kind words when things aren't going well, and it does go along way to help the guys come up for the next week.

In closing, if anyone finds a gumboot down at the Fort can you please pass it on to Andy Asamikidis

All best.  
Cheers Andy.

# Coaching Staff



*Andy Humble  
Senior Coach*

*Andy Greenwood  
Assistant  
Senior Coach*



*Ronnie Verniers  
Reserve  
Coach*

*Stuart Evans  
Assistant  
Reserve  
Coach*



*Roy Lawton  
Goal Keeper  
Coach*



# 50 CLUB

## Miles Tidd

This week versus The Pines "Tiddy" play's his 50th game for the club. Miles previous stint with Knox was a couple of year's back where he came from neighbouring provisional club "Knox Park". During this spell at The Fort he partnered current Coach Andy Humble and team mate Marty O'Hare up front, he fast built a reputation as a sharp-shooter who knows where the back of the net is!

With a outstanding record of 40 goals in 50 matches for the club, it was inevitable that higher clubs would come looking to sign the marksman. He then transferred to V.P.L team Essendon and had quite a successful run with the Royals, before circumstances saw him move across town to Richmond S.C and then back to the V.P.L with the Dandenong Thunder last year.

Miles started 2004 with rivals Frankston Pines before transferring back to The Fort 3 weeks ago, it's a pleasure to have Miles back at the club and on behalf of the committee, players and supporters congratulations on your 50th game.



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## FRANKSTON PINES 1 VS KNOX CITY 2

Knox City scored a deserved 2-1 victory at Frankston Pines on Sunday. The victory does not move them up the league table, but it keeps them in touch with the teams immediately above them. Pines missed the opportunity to go back to the top of the Premier League, and slipped to their second successive home defeat.

Knox should have taken the lead in the opening minutes, when a quickly taken free kick released Miles Tidd, but Stuart Webster in the Pines' goal got down smartly to block the shot. Pines were unable to create any clear cut chances as the Knox defensive back-line was in superb form.

The visitors took the lead in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute when a well placed free kick from Marty O' Hare was headed home in some style by Nick Veljovic. Looking to take this lead into the break, Knox relaxed in the 43<sup>rd</sup> minutes and allowed a cross from Elvin to bobble around the penalty area and the ball was poked through to Simon Webster, who drove the ball across Val Philippe into the corner of the net.

Ivo Madeira who had had a great first half taking

on his defenders with pace had to be substituted shortly after the interval as he succumbed to a bad corked thigh. Cameron Jones replaced him.

Andrew Asimakidis was just too high with a rasping drive, but Frankston was by now starting to exert some pressure as they broke with speed down the flanks.

Knox responded with the vital goal in the 67<sup>th</sup> minute. A left wing cross was not cleared and Mal Impiombato stabbed the ball home from close range. Shortly after, Jones nearly increased the lead but his header, which beat Webster, narrowly missed the near post.

The surprise victory was ensured in the last minutes when Philippe made a fine save to deny Pines a point.

Knox City Reserves completed the double with their first win of the season. Two goals up they allowed the highly placed Frankston side to get back to all square before a late goal sealed a 3-2 victory.



# 25

# 50 CLUB

## Brett Lavale

Against St. Albans on Saturday the big fella made his 50th appearance for Knox City. Brett also is a player who's enjoying a second stint with the Club, his first was as a junior coming through the ranks.

Success seems to follow Brett wherever he goes, he started his senior playing days as a young fella with the former Box Hill Soccer Club. He then transferred to Monbulk and was part of an era that saw the "mountain men" rise through the provisional league at a rapid pace. From here it was Clayton S.C fortune to acquire the services of the big fella, where they became a strong outfit and began to win promotion through the leagues.

Brett was a formidable part of Knox's success last year with valuable contributions on and off the field! He's just as talented belting out a number on stage as he is on the Park.

Brett, on behalf of the committee, players and supporters congratulations on your 50th game.







# Round 13

## KNOX CITY 0 VS ST ALBANS SAINTS 2

Knox City got nothing out of a game in which they battled all day and got none of the luck. Once again, a highly debateable decision may well have cost them a reward that their effort deserved.

In the 55<sup>th</sup> minute, after a period of Knox pressure, Andrew Asimakidis forced the ball into the St. Albans net only for the Assistant Referee to mysteriously flag the goal away for an offside decision. Mal Impiombato had got past the last line of the St. Albans defence and from a tight angle had sent the ball to the far post. It may well have gone in on its own but Andrew Asimakidis made certain by jumping above a defender who was on the goal line and headed home. There appeared to be no claims for an infringement by the St Albans side and the Referee initially awarded the goal. He then noticed his Assistant with his flag up and after a discussion disallowed the goal. With the St. Albans goalkeeper on the line at one post and the other defender between Asimakidis and the goal line, the decision continued a long run of poor officiating that has cost Knox City dearly.

Five minutes later, a quickly taken free kick on the edge of the St. Albans penalty area found Asimakidis in space and he beat the keeper from close range, only to be flagged for offside again.

This decision was just correct. Close but correct.

With their tails up, Knox began to chase the game, when cooler heads should have prevailed and they got caught with two sucker punches in five minutes midway through the second half. Quick, incisive breaks by the St. Albans attack left Urlovic in the clear and he made no mistake with either chance.

After this, St. Albans started to dominate as the Knox players became demoralised and despite sterling performances in the middle from Craig Kerr and Asimakidis, they were unable to find a way back into the game.

The first half had been a close affair with neither side gaining any ascendancy. Marty O' Hare had a couple of good shots on goal but in the main both defences were well on top. Knox went to the break satisfied that for once they had not conceded a goal in the first 45 minutes.

After an extremely bright start to the second half, it then came unravelled in five short minutes.



# 27





# Round 14

## ALTONA MAGIC 5 VS KNOX CITY 0

A competitive first half: a disastrous second half is the best way to describe Knox city's 5-0 defeat at the hands of Altona Magic on Saturday evening at Paisley Park, Altona.

Knox started brightly and matched the highly fancied home side in a very even first half. The defence kept its shape well and the midfield continued its greater creativity of recent weeks, Craig Kerr again to the fore. Opportunities were even until the 35<sup>th</sup> minute when Kole Delev unleashed a thunderbolt from 35 meters that flew into the Knox net with Val Philippe comprehensively beaten.

Knox battled back and Nick Veljovic had an equally fierce long range shot on target but this was tipped away by the Altona keeper at full stretch. Coach Andy Humble was satisfied with the display so far, but it was soon to take a turn for the worse.

Two minutes after the break, the Altona midfield was allowed to get to the edge of the Knox penalty area unchecked and a far post cross was driven back across goal and stabbed home by Koce Delev.

After this it was downhill for Knox. Sweeper Damien Everetts suffered a groin injury in a tackle and he had to be substituted. Soon after Mladenovic rose unchallenged to head home the third and soon after Bozinovski did likewise.

Cameron Jones and Marty O' Hare sent good efforts narrowly over the cross bar and Veljovic forced the keeper to tip his long range shot over for a corner. Mal Impiombato almost forced the ball home but it was never going to be Knox's day.

The rout was complete when Becinovski scored the fifth with fifteen minutes to play.

Knox City faces two crucial games in the next two weeks against fellow strugglers – Whittlesea at home next Saturday and Fawkner away the Sunday after. These games will determine whether City can avoid relegation after one season in the Premier League.



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# F.A. Cup Night

Yes, we had a great time!



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# Round 15

## WHITTLESEA 0 VS KNOX CITY 3

A much needed win against a fellow struggler increased Knox City's chances of playing in Premier League next season. At least temporarily this win takes them out of the relegation places and keeps the big spending Whittlesea up to their necks in the relegation battle.

The first half was a dour affair with little evidence of the goal feast that was to follow. Both sides created half chances but nothing clear cut. The nearest Knox City came to scoring was when the Whittlesea keeper miscued a clearance and the ball spun back towards his own goal. With Cameron Jones in close attendance, a defender was able to hack the ball clear for a corner.

Whittlesea played some neat soccer until the final third, but seldom troubled Val Philippe in the Knox goal. When he was tested he dealt with everything in style, in particular diving at the feet of Oskuz to deflect the ball past the post.

The second half started with Whittlesea on the attack for the best part of 20 minutes as they pushed forward in search

of a goal to put some space between them and Knox on the league ladder. They had a number of goal attempts but most were off-target.

With 16 minutes to go, coach Andy Humble made the winning move when he substituted striker, Miles Tidd with Andrew Branov and moved Nick Veljovic into one of the striking positions.

Shortly after, a through ball found Veljovic just beating the offside trap and he strode clear of the defence to clinically slide the ball past the advancing keeper.

Five minutes later, the lead was doubled. Knox was awarded a free kick on the edge of the penalty area. Craig Kerr took it quickly to Andrew Asimakidis, who had drifted wide of the defensive wall. Inexplicably, the Referee called play back and made Knox take the kick again. This time, Veljovic drove the free kick majestically past the despairing dive of the Whittlesea keeper into the corner of the net.

Knox was now home and was playing out time when Veljovic struck his third with a couple of minutes left on the clock.

The win puts Knox level on points with Whittlesea and above Bentleigh greens and Fawkner, both of whom still have to play their Round 15 matches.



# 30



## HUMBLES GRUMBLE

It's been awhile since my last Crumble and plenty has happened to crumble about. Into the final stretch of the season where points are even more precious than any other time, if that's possible, we see ourselves back down at the bottom of the league, but not without a fight... in most cases!!

Since my last crumble we have played the best soccer we have played all year, not including the 1-0 loss to Preston, although at times that wasn't that bad, and the 4-1 drubbing off Green Gully. The halfway point seemed to spur the lads on as they had promised it would. We went to the Pines and got a deserved win and played some good soccer as well. It was a result that I was confident in getting, more so because Pines would have to change their game plan and attack us rather than wear us down. St Albans was a game where again we were "done" by the officials and the video is there to prove it. We scored a good legitimate goal midway thru the 2nd half after holding a somewhat subdued St Albans, only to have linesman flag for offside. The referee, who in a previous game had overruled his linesman for a decision against us, didn't return the favor this time and after consulting with the linesman gave a free kick!!! The beautiful game it was not!!!! After another offside goal was disallowed, this one more clear cut, St Albans went on and scored two goals to take all points, a cruel day and a one that with a win after the Pines game would have meant so much to the Lads.

The next game was away to Altona Magic. After a pretty good defensive first half we went in 1-0 down to a cracker from about 35 yards. Within 3 minutes of the second half it was 2-0 and with that the team crumbled. We conceded three more bad goals and had a half to forget. Back at the Fort we won our second game in four weeks with a good performance against Whittlesea. After again doing well defensively we keep ourselves in the game and got the vital break through with about 15 to go. By full time we had run out with a comfortable 3-0 win against our fellow strugglers. The game saw Nick Veljovic show his real class with a hat trick (Hat Trick Hero certificate from Soccer Action on its way) which, without checking the history books, could well be the first by a Knox City player in the Premier League (or State League for the oldies amongst us) Three great finishes either way you

look at it. Well-done Nidjo!!

This set up the following weeks encounter against Fawkner as a must win 6 pointer. Unfortunately for us I could probably count only a few players that actually gave us anything in this game, and we got what we deserved, completely embarrassed. I felt sorry for the poor folk that had to pay 9 dollars to watch the game, although Fawkner did play some nice stuff for them to admire. But we were a million miles away.

After the Fawkner debacle we had the weekend off, at least we thought we did. The Dockerty Cup in all its former glory was back to haunt players that don't need two games on a weekend, at anytime of the season!!! At least Pines and ourselves had the luxury of no game on the Saturday or Sunday.

So the rollercoaster season continues, and now it's out of four teams for relegation. We have a fight on our hands and its one that I know the Lads will fight till the end – if they don't they will only let themselves down and regret it for the rest of their days. With six games to go its nice to know that a team that everyone had down for odds on relegation is still in the hunt to be part of the Premier League next year, that's says a lot for both the team and the club in my book.

Ronnie, Stuart and the young Lads are doing it tough at the moment as well, but I can certainly see some talent from the U21's for the coming years.

Six games to go, seven more weeks to make a difference. Not much time, but time enough, lets pull together as one and give this a good red hot go and let people know that Knox aren't just cannon fodder for the rest of the league. Dreams are made of this.

All the best,

Cheers Andy.



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## FAWKNER BLUES 2 VS KNOX CITY 0

An under manned Knox City side went down in disappointing fashion to fellow strugglers Fawner by two goals to nil at Fawkner on Sunday. Combined with Bentleigh Greens' shock 1-0 win over top five side Preston, this pushes Knox back to the foot of the Victorian Premier League. However, should Whittlesea fail to win on Monday night, there will be four teams within a point of each other, fighting to avoid the drop.

Knox started brightly enough and Anthony Edgar sent a header narrowly wide from Knox's first corner. However, Fawkner soon established a grip on the middle of the park and began to assert territorial superiority. Val Philippe in the Knox goal made a couple of reflex saves as Knox defended stoutly for the first half-hour. The opening goal came in the 31<sup>st</sup>

minute when Recchia picked up a loose ball on the edge of the area, went past one player and drove a fierce shot into the top corner of the net.

The second half continued with Fawkner having the upper hand and despite Craig Kerr working tirelessly in midfield, Knox was unable to create any telling chances. Coach Andy Humble rang the changes and pushed Nick Veljovic upfront but it was not one of Knox's better performances and they toiled away without much success even after this change.

Fawkner doubled its lead in the 77<sup>th</sup> minute when a cross deflected off Marty O' Hare and fell kindly to Murphy, who scored from close range.

Knox City Reserves lost 2-1 to Fawkner in the curtain raiser.

# Round 16



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## OAKLEIGH CANNONS 2 VS KNOX CITY 1

A great start by Knox City in its Premier League match with high flying Oakleigh was negated by a dreadful refereeing decision and the visitors went on to take all three points. In shocking conditions, with wind, hail and rain, an entertaining game was spoilt by freekicks being given for the slightest of contact. Virtually every minute the game was stopped for a minor infringement and the game was ruined as a spectacle.

Three minutes into the match and excellent work by Miles Tidd on the left hand side created a chance for Cameron Jones. Under pressure, the ball fell to Craig Kerr on the edge of the penalty and he drove an unstoppable shot into the top corner of the net from 20 metres.

The home side continued to chase everything and had the visitors under pressure. Nick Veljovic was just wide with a good header after a clever build up on the right flank. Oakleigh was being put out of their stride and they created very little until the turning point of the game.

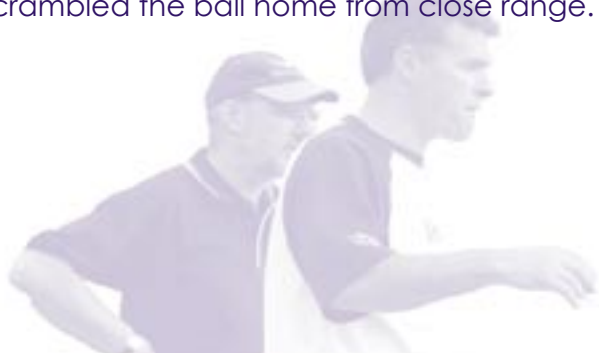
In the 35th minute a right wing cross into the Knox penalty area was met by an Oakleigh forward who drove the ball against the chest of Matt Verniers. The referee who was behind Verniers somehow contrived to award a penalty decision to Oakleigh. Sulemani scored from the spot kick.

The final ten minutes of the half belonged to Oakleigh as their spirits rose and Knox was clearly deflated by another poor decision against it.

Oakleigh started the second half on top and after ten minutes scored what proved to be the winner. A massive scramble in the Knox penalty area saw shots being blocked but the defence could not clear the ball and finally Sulemani scrambled the ball home from close range.

Despite ringing the changes, Knox did not find any rhythm in the second half and their attacks were spasmodic. At the other end, Val Philippe made a number of good stops.

The final ten minutes of the game were played in a hailstorm and Oakleigh were able to see out time for a victory that has, at least for the time being moved them into second position.



# 33

# 50 CLUB

## Ivo Maderia

In this week's crunch match against Bentleigh Greens, Ivo will be playing his 50th game for the club.

Ivo was playing with Endeavour United as a young winger with lightning pace. Head coach Andy Humble kept an eye on Ivo as Endeavour earned a reputation of a skilful side, and when Knox won promotion to division 1 in 2002 the call was made!

Ivo blitzed 2002 preseason and has made the right side of the park his own, he's a super fella and has a lot of hidden talents.

Ivo, on behalf of the committee, players and supporters congratulations on your 50th game.



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# Round 18

## BENTLEIGH GRNS I VS KNOX CITY I

Three minutes was enough to stop Knox City from climbing out of the relegation zone in the Victorian Premier League. Until that point, they had grimly held on to a 26<sup>th</sup> minute lead courtesy of Cameron Jones' first goal of the season. Disappointing though conceding the late goal was, Bentleigh had staged a spirited fight back in the second half and defeat would have been hard on either team.

The ground was so boggy in parts that the preceding Reserves match was called off some 30 minutes before kick off. The conditions though did not stop an entertaining game unfolding. Playing against the wind in the first half, Knox marshalled their defence well and created a number of chances when in attack. Bentleigh did not make the most of the wind at their backs and it was no surprise when Knox took the lead in the 26<sup>th</sup> minute. Marty O' Hare swung over a free kick from the right wing. Andrew Branov competed brilliantly with the keeper and won a header that was swept home by Jones from six metres.

The game was there for the taking and Nick Veljovic only just failed to connect with a full length diving header and just before the break, the ball fell to David Breslin ten metres out. He swept the ball at full stretch past the keeper but the ball ran agonisingly past the post.

To Bentleigh's credit, they came out against the wind and played positive attacking soccer. Knox,

on the other hand, failed to create too many chances and their front men did not hold the ball up well enough.

Knox's defence was under pressure but was dealing well enough with the home team attacks. Occasionally, Knox would break and look dangerous at the other end, Veljovic having a couple of pile drivers that unfortunately went straight to the keeper.

Val Philippe kept Knox in the game when he made a brilliant one-handed reflex save.

Just as it was looking as though Knox would see out the final few minutes, Gelmanjovic got behind the defence to the bye line. His cross was sliced back to him by a Knox defender and he gratefully accepted the chance from an acute angle.

After this, first Bentleigh and then Knox had chances to steal the game in the last couple of minutes. Philippe made an important stop to foil Bentleigh and then Miles Tidd drove an inviting free kick on the edge of the penalty area just over the bar.

The draw probably suited neither side, but in the end it was more valuable for Bentleigh who stay out of the bottom two.



# 35

## KNOX CITY O VS ESSENDON ROYAL I

Knox City's time in the Victorian Premier League is fast running out and the loss at home to Essendon brought reality a little closer on Saturday at Egan Lee Reserve.

Kicking with a strong wind, the visitors enjoyed the majority of the possession in the first half. They used the full width of the pitch to put the Knox defence under a great deal of pressure, however apart from one good save from Val Philippe, they did not create too many clear cut chances in the first 25 minutes.

That all changed when a flowing movement was finished off by Frank Catalano, who swept the ball home from six metres out, for what proved to be the vital goal.

Ivo Madeira looked sharp for Knox on the left wing and he made a number of incisive moves down the flank, but the Essendon goal was seldom troubled before the break.

The home side had more of the ball after the break as they pushed forward for an equaliser, with Essendon relying on quick breaks. However, Knox's chances were dealt another severe blow by a referee when David Breslin was given a straight red-card for a tackle.

Ironically, this heralded Knox's best period of the game as their ten men drove Essendon back and the chances started to appear. Nick Veljovic had a couple of scorers well saved by Astanasiades and then the Essendon keeper excelled himself with a sensational save from a close range header from Anthony Edgar.

Andy Humble rang the changes by throwing on his three substitutes and the pressure continued on the Essendon goal. Miles Tidd hooked the ball over and Edgar did likewise as the clock ticked away.

The defeat leaves Knox with a mountain to climb as their last three games are against the three of the top four sides, commencing with an away game at Bulleen on Monday 19 July.



# 36



## BULLEEN ZEBRAS 3 VS KNOX CITY 0

Knox City went down to a comprehensive 3-0 defeat to Bulleen on Monday night and their fight to remain in the Victorian Premier League is now looking lost. They are in second last position, with two teams being relegated, and are five points adrift of the next team with only two games and six points to play for.

As expected, Bulleen started at a very fast pace under lights at the Veneto Club and continually threatened the Knox goal. However, the visitors were able to negotiate their way safely through the first twenty minutes and looked to have weathered the early storm, when some slack marking brought them undone twice in the space of fifteen minutes.

First, Harbison was allowed time and space to control the ball on the edge of the area and pick his spot with a curling shot from 20 metres. Val Philippe, in the Knox goal, had no chance with a pinpoint shot. Matters got worse when Bulleen found a spare man on the left side of the penalty area and a deft chip into the middle found Santilli who headed home for a 2-0 lead.

Any chance that Knox had to claw their way back into the game vanished five minutes after the break when a near post cross was met by central defender Drakos, who had stayed in attack after a cleared corner, and he tucked the ball home from close range.

Knox's best efforts came from Anthony Edgar, playing in a more advanced role and Craig Kerr, both with long range efforts. Late in the game, substitute Matt Orr had a chance to put Knox on the scoreboard, but his shot was blocked at close range.

For Knox City, Craig Kerr again ran himself into the ground in midfield and a couple of others provided modest support but in general the quality was lacking in Knox's game.

The Reserves lost 1-0 in the opening match.

Knox City's last home game for the season is this Saturday at Egan Lee Reserve, when Preston Lions are the visitors.



# 100 CLUB

## Martin O'Hare

Against Preston this weekend Hareski plays his 100th game for the club. Martin's junior years were spent playing for Mitcham United and Croydon, before moving across to Ringwood to play in the National Youth League. From that team he and two others were identified as good prospects and the following winter season Martin broke into the senior team and cemented his spot on the left at age 16.



With a cracking left foot and blonde locks it wasn't long before interested parties came knocking. At 18, Gary Cole invited Marty down to the Magic where he completed the preseason and fired in the first 3 games of the league picking up 3 VPL votes, Gary Cole got the sack as coach and Marty and Michael Mickalicopolos returned to Ringwood. Ringwood rose from Division 3 to Division 1 in respective years, it was at this stage Marty took off overseas for two years.



Returning from OS Marty joined his mates from junior years and rolled up to Egan Lee for a kick. The rest is Knox City history, finally winning Div 2 after the heartache of the playoffs 2 years running. Then of course the high of last season was gaining promotion to the VPL, and did I mention he doesn't mind a beer either. Always keen for a bevy after the game!

On behalf of the Committee, players and Supporters congratulations on your 100th match for Knox Marty!



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# Round 21

## KNOX CITY 0 VS PRESTON LIONS 2

Knox City's fight to stay in the Victorian Premier League was finally lost in the second last game of the season. A 2-0 home defeat to the 2002 Champions, Preston, finally determined their destiny and they will return to the State league Division One in 2005.

With a five point gap to make up in two games, it was always going to be a difficult task and against the skilful and free flowing Preston side it was always just that. However, with some determined defending and not a little luck, Knox held out until two minutes before the interval, before a loose ball given away in the middle left Sekulovski to race through to beat Val Philippe, who despite getting a hand to the ball could not prevent the goal.

Before that, Damian Everetts had cleared off the goal line and Knox had spent long periods on the defensive, but they battled hard and at no stage

gave in. They suffered a blow when Anthony Edgar was forced from the ground with concussion ( and possibly a fractured cheek bone) after receiving a full blooded kick to the side of the face.

The game was effectively sealed for Preston ten minutes after the resumption when a neat interchange of passing in the box found Sekulovski who was able to side foot the ball under the diving Philippe.

Try as they might, Knox could not breach the Preston defence and the visitors claimed a deserved victory.

The last game of the season for Knox is next Sunday when they visit the reigning Champions, Green Gully. The planning for next season will start then.



# 39





# Round 22

## GREEN GULLY 7 VS KNOX CITY 2

Reigning Victorian Premier League champions and this year's minor premiers, Green Gully emphasised the difference between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in the Premier League with a 7-2 thumping of Knox City in the final league game of the season.

With a number of ex National League players and a current New Zealand international in their side, Gully tore Knox apart with six goals in a 25 minute spell before the interval. In truth, Knox was the architect of its own demise with some naïve defending and by continually giving the ball away to opponents who didn't need a second opportunity to take advantage of such profligacy.

The first fifteen minutes were scoreless, then a dubious penalty decision opened the floodgates, with Lazarevski, being the main beneficiary of Knox's generosity,

scoring a hat trick before the break. The goals flowed at regular intervals and by half time a record score looked on the cards.

To Knox's credit, they showed much more fight in the second half and reduced the deficit with two goals to David Breslin, the first being particularly well taken, the second stroked into the empty net after good work by Ivo Madeira.

Such is the depth of Green Gully's resources that they were able to substitute the hat trick scorer, Lazarevski with last year's Premier League leading goalscorer, Peter Hader.

Knox's Coach, Andy Humble was able to give a couple of his young prospects, Daniel Sobrio and Liam Swaine a run later in the game as the focus inevitably turned towards next season.

Just when it looked as though Knox would achieve its mini target of keeping Gully scoreless in the second half, Vassallo scored off the far post with two minutes remaining.

Green Gully Reserves beat Knox City 2-1 in the under 21 match.



# 40



# Results

| Round | Fixture                           | Seniors | Reserves |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| 1     | KNOX CITY vs Frankston Pines      | 0 - 0   | 0 - 3    |
| 2     | St.Albans Saints vs KNOX CITY     | 3 - 0   | 4 - 1    |
| 3     | KNOX CITY vs Altona Magic         | 1 - 3   | 1 - 1    |
| 4     | Whittlesea Stallions vs KNOX CITY | 4 - 3   | 4 - 2    |
| 5     | KNOX CITY vs Fawkner Blues        | 1 - 3   | 2 - 4    |
| 6     | Oakleigh Cannons vs KNOX CITY     | 0 - 1   | 2 - 2    |
| 7     | KNOX CITY vs Bentleigh Greens     | 1 - 0   | 1 - 2    |
| 8     | Essendon Royals vs KNOX CITY      | 3 - 1   | 3 - 3    |
| 9     | KNOX CITY vs Bulleen Zebras       | 0 - 2   | 0 - 3    |
| 10    | Preston Lions vs KNOX CITY        | 0 - 1   | 0 - 1    |
| 11    | KNOX CITY vs Green Gully          | 1 - 4   | 0 - 1    |
| 12    | Frankston Pines vs KNOX CITY      | 1 - 2   | 2 - 3    |
| 13    | KNOX CITY vs St.Albans Saints     | 0 - 2   | 0 - 2    |
| 14    | Altona Magic vs KNOX CITY         | 5 - 0   | 0 - 1    |
| 15    | KNOX CITY vs Whittlesea Stallions | 3 - 0   | 2 - 3    |
| 16    | Fawkner Blues vs KNOX CITY        | 2 - 0   | 2 - 1    |
| 17    | KNOX CITY vs Oakleigh Cannons     | 1 - 2   | 3 - 2    |
| 18    | Bentleigh Greens vs KNOX CITY     | 1 - 1   | PP       |
| 19    | KNOX CITY vs Essendon Royals      | 0 - 1   | 1 - 0    |
| 20    | Bulleen Zebras vs KNOX CITY       | 3 - 0   | 1 - 0    |
| 21    | KNOX CITY vs Preston Lions        | 0 - 2   | PP       |
| 22    | Green Gully vs KNOX CITY          | 7 - 2   | 2 - 1    |

## 2004 SENIOR LADDER

|    |                      |    |
|----|----------------------|----|
| 1  | Green Gully          | 48 |
| 2  | Oakleigh Cannons     | 45 |
| 3  | Bulleen Zebras       | 41 |
| 4  | Preston Lions        | 37 |
| 5  | Altona Magic         | 36 |
| 6  | Frankston Pines      | 35 |
| 7  | St.Albans Saints     | 34 |
| 8  | Essendon Royals      | 32 |
| 9  | Fawkner Blues        | 23 |
| 10 | Bentleigh Greens     | 16 |
| 11 | Whittlesea Stallions | 13 |
| 12 | Knox City            | 11 |

## RESERVE LADDER

|    |                      |    |
|----|----------------------|----|
| 1  | St.Albans Saints     | 48 |
| 2  | Green Gully          | 48 |
| 3  | Bulleen Zebras       | 44 |
| 4  | Preston Lions        | 40 |
| 5  | Frankston Pines      | 36 |
| 6  | Whittlesea Stallions | 31 |
| 7  | Fawkner Blues        | 29 |
| 8  | Oakleigh Cannons     | 28 |
| 9  | Bentleigh Greens     | 21 |
| 10 | Essendon Royals      | 21 |
| 11 | Knox City            | 17 |
| 12 | Altona Magic         | 7  |

## HUMBLES GRUMBLE – FINAL WRAP

Confucius say...

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

We always knew it would be tough, it certainly was. We knew it would be a long hard season, it has been. But, we also knew, whatever the outcome, the club as one would benefit from the experience. That for me is a major plus and one that we must all take heart from. We are currently in a better position than we would have been had we stayed in the First Division. We have had a great experience and the players will be better for it, the club will be better for it and I certainly learned much from it. It's the place to be playing and it's the place we want to get back to as soon as we can.



I want to thank the lads that stuck it out and played and trained hard till the end, under those circumstances many people can't handle it and go missing. We may not have had everyone firing on all cylinders, but we certainly kept the wheels on and we kept plugging away. That for me is a massive plus for all involved. True character is born out of being up against it and keeping your head and dignity intact during those difficult circumstances, that's where respect comes from and that's where I'd like to look after these sorts of seasons. Everyone will give you one hundred percent when things are going well, its when the bad times come around that you find your true players. I know I have many at Knox.

In a season of almost's, maybe's and what ifs (aren't they all like that??) it was a positive to see that we were still in the hunt to stay in the Premier League up to the second last round, and a positive that apart from Green Gully in the last game, we didn't get totally hammered and embarrassed. We were in many many games for long periods, but just lacked that little bit extra to keep us there. At the end of the day no one wants to look at or hear excuses, we have to look at ourselves and say we are not good enough and we lacked the skill in the skill department and we lacked the fight in the fight department. We have skill, and we have fight, lots of it, but in the Premier League if you have 4-5 passengers in either of those areas you are going to struggle. Our use of the ball let us down in positions where other teams had the quality to punish us, and our concentration let us down in positions where other teams had the discipline to keep focused and do a job.

The assault on the First Division is being planned as I type and we will continue to try and strengthen the squad to give it another shot next season. I have a number of players in mind to try and bring down to the club, although I'm not sure the Green Gully players will want to play for a hamburger and a can of coke!!!! And I'm sure, after a nice break, the lads will be back firing again in the pre season. Its hard to comprehend that most of the guys that were



part of the promotion team have had only a 6 week break from training and playing in about twenty months. In any league anywhere in the world that is a big ask. Not an excuse, but a well deserved rest is surely warranted.

I've heard rumors already that certain players have been looked at by other Premier League clubs. Nothing concrete as yet, but I'm sure that will arise in the near future. All the current players have been asked to report back to pre Season training on the 14<sup>th</sup> December and as far as I'm concerned all will be playing for Knox City next year.

It's pleasing to see the strength we have in the reserves team presently. We are hoping to keep as many of those promising players for next year, but fear a few maybe be enticed away by the VIS, which for the club will be a blow, but for the players obviously a great achievement. We already had a number of quality young players that looked good for the future, and this year certainly saw a few more come to the fore and get some game time with the first team. I'm certainly very keen to keep all those players at the club and look forward to them making the progression to the first team squad. Ronnie and Stuart together did a great job this year with the young'uns!!!

I'd like to again thank the supporters for their efforts this year. Its always difficult for supporters to get enthused about games when the team is on a losing streak, but we did get some great support and I look forward to seeing that increase next year.

Thanks also to the guys behind the scenes that do a lot of work to keep the place up to scratch and get us prepared for match days. Lou, Gunter and Martin do a mountain of work each week and it certainly is much appreciated. Thanks also to Colleen for the Thursday night cooking for the lads, very much appreciated. Gordon, our scoreboard guru, sadly passed away in the last weeks of the season and I'm sure it was heartfelt by everyone involved in the club. He will certainly be missed.

Thanks must also go to the Website team, Conor, Damo and Benton for another year of outstanding work. I think you will agree the quality just keeps getting better and better and leaves many other sports websites for dead. Well done guys and thanks for your valued support.

A season can't go by without thanks to Bruce Darnell. The team manager of team managers. Again, Brucey showed the passion throughout the season and also shared the pain at the end of it. Thanks for your valuable help as always Bruce.

Thanks to Andy Greenwood for his valuable input as assistant this year, I wish I had a couple of Andy Greenwoods on the park this year!! Always passionate and always a winner. Thanks mate.

Thanks to Cor, Chas and Bruce on the committee. We know the financial limitations that do make it difficult, but if ever called upon these guys do find a way to help out. Thanks again guys.

In closing I refer back to the message at the top of the page, and yes it really is Confucius. Alot of high profile winners say to win things you have to lose things, or to enjoy the good times you have to have seen the bad. In my stint with Knox, we have seen a few bad times and it's always been important to me that we use that as inspiration for the next season, and we have. So... we know will sometimes fail, we must accept that and we do, but we must also make sure that we come back fighting, stronger and wiser the next time. I'm sure we will and I'm sure the lads will make sure we do. Two words – First Division!!!!

Enjoy the break and be safe.

All the best.

Cheers Andy.



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## 2004 K.C.S.C SENIOR TEAM

BACK ROW - liam swaine, craig kerr[c], andy branov, mal impiombato, marty o'hare,  
david breslin, damian everetts[vc], matt verniers

MIDDLE ROW - R\*\*\*\*[physio], ivo maderia, miles tidd, lan callaghan, nick veljovic,  
anthony edgar, matt orr, brett lavalley, cameron jones

FRONT ROW - chas collison[secretary], cor teeuw[president], andy humble[coach],  
val philippe, matt broxham, roy lawton[goal keeper coach], angus bell[physio],  
bruce darnell[vice president/team manager]

[ABSENT - andy greenwood[assistant coach]]



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## 2004 H.C.S.C RESERVE TEAM

BACK ROW - adam doughty, damien greco, daniel sobrio, brett van duppen,  
yasher alinejad, anthony greco, zelmar martinez

MIDDLE ROW - bruce darnell[vice president], matt orr[vc], salem nasser, matt broxham,  
robert benedos, luke ventieri, angus bell[physio], R\*\*\*[physio]

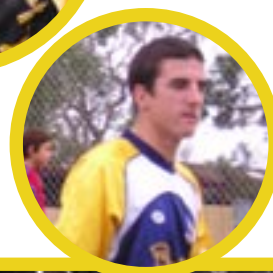
FRONT ROW - chas collison[secretary], adam ventieri, stuart evans[assistant coach],  
liam swaine[c], ron verniers[coach], roy lawton[goal keeper coach], gary mousaco,  
cor teuw[president]



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What then?



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